

County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

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July 16, 2009

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Philip L. Browning, Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Browning', written over the 'FROM' line.

SUBJECT: **AVERAGE STATEWIDE GENERAL ASSISTANCE CASELOAD
(AGENDA ITEM 81-C – JUNE 16, 2009)**

At the Board of Supervisors' meeting on June 16, 2009, Supervisor Antonovich requested that the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) report back with information on the number of General Relief (GR) recipients who have received GR benefits, were terminated due to the nine-month time limit, and have subsequently reapplied after three months or at the end of their time limit ineligibility period. Information on the GR time limit policy for Employables and GR caseload trends are also provided.

GR CASELOAD STATISTICS

In 2007, approximately 70% of GR participants were classified as "Unemployable" and approximately 30% were classified as "Employable."

Due to the recent economic downturn beginning in early 2008, which has significantly impacted the labor market, we have seen an increase in the number of GR applications. Reports indicate that many of these applications are from new or first-time applicants who may have experienced recent job losses, which may account for the increase in the employable caseload in the past few months.

As of May 2009, the GR caseload is 80,623, which includes 28,944 or 36% Employable, 46,941 or 58% Unemployable, and 4,738 or 6% pending employability determination.

GENERAL RELIEF OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORK (GROW) EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

When the GROW Program was first implemented in 1999, only 40% of the GR caseload was unemployable. A few years after the implementation of GROW, the number of employables started decreasing and the number of unemployables increased. The decrease in the employables can be attributed to employment placements as a result of participation in GROW. Approximately 12,000 employable participants referred to GROW are placed into employment each year.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

GR TIME LIMITS

Individuals determined to be employable are required to participate in the GROW Program, which is designed to help them find employment. Employables may receive GR for nine months in any 12-month period, provided they continue to comply with GROW requirements. Unemployable participants are not subject to time limits.

SERVICE INTEGRATION BRANCH (SIB) DATA ON GR TIME LIMIT RECIDIVISM

The Chief Executive Office's SIB performed an analysis using a three-year period, January 2006 to December 2008, to determine the number of participants who were terminated due to 9-month time limit and returned to GR within four months of the termination due to time limits. SIB indicated that since they do not have the time limit termination codes in their file, they extracted the data based on the recipient's cash-eligibility and GR status. GR recipients on aid for eight to ten months were counted as time-limit exits.

According to the data provided by SIB, 116,000 GR cases started between January 2006 and December 2008; 40,000 were employable and therefore subject to the 9-month time limit. Of these 40,000 employable participants, 4,000 (10%) exited due to time limits and only 650 (16% of the 4,000) returned within four months of exiting GR.

SUMMARY

The following are the summary of the above findings:

- Current GR caseload is 80,623;
- 58% of the individuals on GR are "Unemployable;"
- 12,000 participants are placed into employment annually;
- 90% (36,000) of the employable participants exit GR prior to their time limit for other termination reasons;
- Of the 10% (4,000) employable participants who reach the time limit, 16% (650) return to the program as soon as they are eligible; and
- 1.6% of all employable participants reach the time limit and return to the program when they are eligible.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if you need additional information.

PLB:jd

c: Chief Executive Officer
Acting County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Deputy Chief Executive Officer